



Nebraska Task Force - I

February 1998

Announcing

by John Huff

Canine Categorization

On Saturday, January 17th, 1998 NETF-1 successfully completed a categorization of all current team members and perspective team members. The purpose of this categorization is to measure progress and evaluate progress of the canine team towards the goal of FEMA certification. NETF-1 plans to conduct on-going categorization assessment quarterly as defined in the Canine Policy. This means in 1998 assessments should be conducted in April, July and October.

In addition, when a FEMA test is scheduled, NETF-1 Canine Specialists may participate in a pre-test regardless of their category.

Any questions regarding categorization should be directed to NETF-1 Lead Canine Search Specialist, Elaine Sawtell.

Article

by Elaine Sawtell

Condensed Version Reprinted from Springfield, Missouri - DTC Newsletter 02/96.

Reflections of Oklahoma City: Part I

THE PARTING - Monday, April 17, 1995, 6:30am, the end of a grueling week at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, site of FEMA's Canine Search Specialist school for disaster search dogs and handlers. Co-instructors, Anne Wichmann, a forest ranger from Colorado, and Annie Lerum, a dog trainer from California, and I sat in the barracks saying goodbye to each other. "Wouldn't it be hot", says Annie, "if we could be deployed together!" Ann and I agree, but we all realize it would take something really big to deploy task forces from California, Colorado and Nebraska.

THE DAY - Wednesday, April 19, 1995, sometime after 9:02am. I am at my job as a court reporter for the Federal Grand Jury when my pager goes off. Between witnesses I return Linda Hoffert's call. No, I hadn't heard about the bomb, but an FBI agent waiting to testify fills me in: Two-thirds of the building is gone and it's possible

more bombs are in the building. Nebraska is the closest FEMA task force to Oklahoma City, and Ditto is the closest certified dog. That evening I call Annie in California. No answer. She and Colter, her 9-year old German Shepherd, are in the air on their way to Oklahoma, City.

THE FRUSTRATION - When the smoke clears, the damage becomes apparent. The most experienced task forces in shoring collapsed structures must be sent: two from Virginia, one from Maryland, one from Florida. New York is deployed because of their experience with the World Trade Center bombing. Phoenix, the closest team considered deployable, is first in. The rescue workers, the citizens of Oklahoma City and the nation watch as search dogs pick their way through the rubble, confident that, if there are survivors, the dogs will find them. I know better. These dogs could be missing survivors. (AUTHOR'S NOTES: Because of the nature of the collapse, there were no survivable voids; thus, no survivors were missed by search dogs or other search methods).

THE DRILL - Saturday, April 24, 1995, 9:00am. Along with other Canine Search Specialists Ditto and I are in Lincoln, Nebraska for a scheduled drill with our (then) 62-member task force. We go through simulated mobilization procedures. Our task force leader explains we're not deployable because our tons of equipment are not "palletized".

WEEK TWO - Thursday, April 27, 1995. Lincoln Fire Department calls. My task force leader has been deployed to Oklahoma City. He will try to get Ditto activated. "You know you're getting my adrenaline up again," I tell Sandy, the secretary. She laughs. Friday and Saturday pass quietly.

THE CALL - Sunday, April 30, 1995, 5:00pm. California Task Force never deploy uncertified dogs. CATF-5 has only one dog available. Ditto and I are temporarily assigned to CATF-5, Orange County Fire. By 6:00pm we're on I-44 headed for Oklahoma City.

Upcoming Training Events

The NETF-1 K-9 training sessions will be the third Saturday of each month at the Lincoln Fire Department Training Center located at 3rd & South Street from 8:00am - 4:00pm. These training sessions are a great time to observe other dog/handler teams, take ADVANTAGE of the NETF-1 trainers expertise, get ideas on what, where and with who you can train in between monthly sessions.

Canine Bulletin

NETF-1

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[fire/index.htm](http://interlinc.ci.lincoln.ne.us/interlinc/city/fire/index.htm)

Calender of Canine Training for 1998

January 17	Outstate in Nebraska	July 18	NETF-1 in Missouri
February 21	3rd & South/8am	August 15	3rd & South/8am
March 21	NETF-1 in Missouri	September 19	Outstate in Nebraska
April 18	3rd & South/8am	*October 10&11	T.B.A.
May 16	Outstate in Nebraska	November 21	NETF-1 in Missouri
June 20	3rd & South/8am	*December	NO monthly session

Outstate NETF-1 Members in Lincoln = Outstate Members of NETF-1 will be in Lincoln to work their dogs. These members are very knowledgeable some have been deployed, so take advantage of this time to ask questions and get to know them. Observing the more advanced dog/handler teams can also help give you ideas for training your dog.

NETF-1 in Missouri = Members of the Nebraska Task Force are invited to attend the MOTF-1 training session in Columbia, Missouri. HOWEVER, the most advanced dogs will be worked first. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE that you will have the opportunity to work your dog on the Missouri equipment.

TRAINERS - Monica Barger, Alise Dart, Laura Elwess, Melody Jensen, Vicky Moser, and Dian Quist Sulek.

TRAINING LOGS - Training logs must be completed and turned in each month. Your training hours provide important documentation when the Nebraska Task Force (NETF-1) is "audited" by FEMA.

Training Logs Submission Address

Mail or Drop Off Logs to:
Sandy Yost
Lincoln Fire Department
1801 "Q" Street
Lincoln, Ne. 68508

Agenda

February 21, 1998

- 8:00am- Meet at Green Box Car at the Training Center
- 8:15am- Guest Speaker - Veterinarian Dr. Kathy Calvert
- 10:00am- Meet at the Youth Complex at St. Fair Grounds for building search work, alert work, and obedience.
- 12:00pm- Lunch
- 1:00pm- Meet back at Youth Complex. Specific problems with your canine will be addressed. Bring your ideas.

Personal Gear

As defined in the Canine Policy "Anyone deployable or qualified and is affiliated with NETF-1 will be issued a complement of personal gear and be rostered as a task force team member and granted all opportunities to participate in team

We currently have ample personal gear available such as camouflage BDU's, jump suits, helmets, and gloves. In order for us to provide these for training purposes contact Deputy Chief Larry Edwards at 435-5002 to arrange for a fitting..

Corrections

Pavers Correction

There is a correction in the directions to the Pavers rubble pile. It is located 3.2 miles east of 84th and Cornhusker Highway, not 2.5 miles.

Miscellaneous

Help Needed

The rubble pile and equipment at the Training Center needs attention. There are some repairs and labeling that needs to be done. We will be meeting Saturday March 7, 1998 at 1:00pm at the Training Center. Call Vicky Moser at 489-3582 if you can make it Bring your dogs.

Rubble Pile Rules

1. Use ALL SAFETY GEAR! Helmet, Steel-Toed Boots, Long Pants.
OPTIONAL - Gloves, Long Sleeves, Knee & Elbow Pads.
2. Always notify proper persons that you will be using the facilities.
3. Pick up after your dog.
4. Always have a person with you. Never be at any facilities alone.
5. Remember that rubble piles always have the potential of being unstable. BE CAREFUL!

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Submission of Items for the "Canine Bulletin"

!E-mail, E-mail, E-mail!

E-mail address:

smanning@email.ci.lincoln.ne.us
(preferable, if possible)

Otherwise please mail submissions to:

Shelly Manning
Lincoln Fire Department
1801 "Q" Street
Lincoln, Ne. 68508

Address/Phone # Changes

Contact: Sandy or Shelly @ LFD Fire
Administration
(402) 441-7363 or e-mail

activities. Individuals not deployable or qualified shall not be deployed or issued any task force team gear other than limited personal safety gear and protection clothing and equipment, if available in the task force stores".

- the rubble.
7. Waiver - Every person needs to sign a waiver for each location, including kids.